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COOKE, MORRIS L. *Our Cities Awake*. Pp. xi, 351. Price, \$2.50. New York: Doubleday Page & Co., 1918.

That a book on *Our Cities Awake* could come out of the experience of one who was for four years the Director of the Department of Public Works in the City of Philadelphia is the best proof that the title of the work reflects at once a fact in American urban life and a buoyancy of optimistic purpose that assures great achievements in the reconstruction days now upon us. The vigor of our growing cities appeals to and is truly reflected by the mental vigor with which the author pictures the solutions which can be and have been adopted for civic, social and industrial problems by the maturing cities of a young nation.

This book is not a factual book, but it is a record of inspiring facts. It is the output of one, who, having drudged in the basement of city hall facts, goes to the towers for refreshment and broader views; it is the work of an efficient engineer with a public philosophy. It is not by chance that the introduction is from the pen of a pacifist mayor who as Secretary of War helped mightily to win a world war for democracy. The retinue of visional workers this book will enlist is the one sure token that our cities now awake will not relapse into the slumber of civic indifference.

The book is one for the high school, for the teacher and for the business man as well as for the civic preacher. Like good stories for children, the book will be enjoyed by grown-ups, who want to sense the charm and interest in urban facts whether they have to do with sewers, city hall pigeons, civil service or publicity.

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MOORE, H. L. *Forecasting the Yield and Price of Cotton*. Pp. vi, 173. Price, \$2.50. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1917.

Again Professor Moore has investigated the law of economic change by the criteria of the higher statistical methods. In this case his task is to forecast the price of cotton, a commodity upon which alone practically depends the welfare of the entire southern group of states. He finds that it is possible by the use of the correlation formula to predict the yield per acre of cotton from current records of temperature and rainfall with greater accuracy than is now attained by the method in use by the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Agriculture, and sometimes as much as two months in advance of the latter; he finds that the probable acreage can be forecast before the cotton crop is planted, with substantially the same degree of accuracy with which the Bureau of Statistics forecasts the yield per acre at the first of September; and finally he establishes the law of demand for cotton by the theory of multiple correlation. It is a very interesting and very suggestive piece of work.

He devotes a long chapter in the early part of the book to the derivation of the correlation coefficient and the regression equations—apparently with the purpose of making his methods understandable and usable by business men. Nevertheless the technique is difficult for anyone not trained in statistical methods and it will probably be some time before the method of correlation is used extensively. This detracts in no way from the credit of making a start.

It is unfortunate that statisticians cannot agree on a uniform system of notation in deriving and using correlation formulae. The notation followed in Yule's text is probably most common. Professor Moore reverses this usage in one respect by representing actual measurements by x and y while deviations from the mean are expressed by the capitals X and Y . This may not be a serious fault, yet it is confusing to the very readers whom he apparently wishes to reach, for the next exposition of correlation they read will as likely use the opposite notation.

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